

## TWIST GROUPS OF COMPACT 3-MANIFOLDS

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Let  $D$  be a properly imbedded 2-disc in a 3-manifold  $M$ . Choosing a neighborhood  $N$  of  $D$  which is homeomorphic to  $D^2 \times I$  with  $N \cap \partial M$  corresponding to  $\partial D^2 \times I$ , we define a twist about  $D$  to be the homeomorphism  $t_D$  such that  $t_D(\text{re}^{2\pi i\theta}, t) = (\text{re}^{2\pi i(\theta+t)}, t)$  if  $(\text{re}^{2\pi i\theta}, t) \in N$  and  $t_D(x) = x$  if  $x \notin N$ . Note that  $t_D|_{\partial M}$  is a Dehn twist about  $\partial D$ . There are two directions for twisting, corresponding to the choices of orientation for a regular neighborhood of  $D$ . Except for this choice, the isotopy class  $\langle t_D \rangle$  in the full mapping class group  $\mathcal{M}(M)$  depends only on the ambient isotopy class of  $D$  in  $M$ . The collection of all isotopy classes of twists generates the twist group  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ , a normal subgroup of  $\mathcal{M}(M)$ .

It is easy to see that  $t_D$  is homotopic to the identity map  $1_M$  and hence  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is contained in the kernel of the natural homomorphism  $\mathcal{M}(M) \rightarrow \text{Out}(\pi_1(M))$  that takes  $\langle h \rangle$  to  $h_*$ . But  $t_D|_{\partial M}$  is isotopic to  $1_{\partial M}$  only when  $\partial D$  bounds a disc or a Möbius band in  $\partial M$ , hence  $t_D$  is often not isotopic to  $1_M$ .

Understanding the twist group is important in studying the mapping class groups of 3-manifolds-with-boundary. In the case of a handlebody (3-ball with 1-handles attached) we have the following theorem of Luft:

**THEOREM ([14]).** *Let  $V$  be an orientable handlebody. Then  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  equals the kernel of  $\mathcal{M}_1(V) \rightarrow \text{Out}(\pi_1(V))$ , where  $\mathcal{M}_1$  indicates orientation-preserving mapping classes.*

This was generalized in [17] to:

**THEOREM.** *Let  $M$  be a compact  $\mathbb{P}^2$ -irreducible 3-manifold with nonempty boundary, and basepoint  $x_0 \in \text{int}(M)$ . Suppose  $h: (M, x_0) \rightarrow (M, x_0)$  is a homeomorphism with  $h_*$  the identity on  $\pi_1(M, x_0)$ .*

- (a) *If the local degree of  $h$  at  $x_0$  is 1, then  $h$  is isotopic (rel  $x_0$ ) to a product of twist homeomorphisms*
- (b) *If the local degree of  $h$  at  $x_0$  is  $-1$ , then  $M$  is an  $I$ -bundle over a compact 2-manifold. In particular, if  $M$  has compressible boundary, then  $M$  is a handlebody.*

In the case of non-irreducible 3-manifolds, we have a result which extends a result of Hendriks:

**THEOREM ([11]).** *Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold containing no 2-sided projective planes, and let  $f: (M, \partial M, x_0) \rightarrow (M, \partial M, x_0)$  be a map with  $f_*$  the identity on  $\pi_1(M, x_0)$  and having twisted degree 1. Then  $f$  is properly homotopic (rel  $x_0$ ), to a homeomorphism  $t \circ r \circ h \circ g$ , where  $t$  is a product of twist homeomorphisms,  $r$  is a rotation about an imbedded 2-sphere in  $M$ , and  $h$  and  $g$  are certain homeomorphisms constructed using 2-sphere boundary components of  $M$ .*

It is a plausible conjecture that for any compact 3-manifold  $M$ , the kernel of  $\mathcal{M}(M) \rightarrow \text{Out}(\pi_1(M))$  is finitely generated if and only if  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is finitely generated. It also seems likely that  $\mathcal{M}(M)$  is finitely generated for any compact 3-manifold—this is known for all  $\mathbb{P}^2$ -irreducible sufficiently large 3-manifolds [10], [17] and for lens spaces [3] and many other 3-manifolds with finite fundamental groups. However,  $\pi_1(\text{Homeo}(M))$  is not finitely generated if  $M$  is a connected sum of at least three closed aspherical summands [15]. Also, if  $M_1$  is a compact aspherical 3-manifold-with-boundary such that  $\text{Out}(\pi_1(M_1))$  is finite and

$\pi_1(M_1)$  admits a surjective homomorphism onto  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ , then the group of homotopy equivalences  $\pi_0(\text{Equiv}(M_1 \# D^3 \# D^3))$  is not finitely generated [16].

In this paper, we shall consider the problem of determining whether  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is finitely generated, showing that finite generation is equivalent to a simple geometric condition involving the boundary of  $M$ . Precisely, we say that  $\partial M$  is *almost incompressible* if in each boundary component  $F$  of  $M$  there is at most one simple closed curve (up to isotopy in  $\partial M$ ) that bounds a disc in  $M$  but does not bound a disc or a Möbius band in  $F$ . We will prove

**COROLLARY 3.3.2.** *Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold. Then  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is finitely generated if and only if  $\partial M$  is almost incompressible.*

In view of Luft's theorem quoted above, this shows that  $\ker(\mathcal{M}(V) \rightarrow \text{Out}(\pi_1(V)))$  is not finitely generated when  $V$  is a handlebody of genus  $\geq 2$ , solving Problem 2.4 of Kirby's Stanford problem list [12]. When  $V$  is an orientable handlebody of genus 2, this problem was solved by Kramer [13] using methods different from ours. We also determine all the finitely generated twist groups:

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Let  $M$  be a compact connected 3-manifold with finitely generated twist group.*

- (a) *If  $M$  is a solid Klein Bottle, then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$*
- (b) *If  $M$  is  $\mathbb{P}^2$ -irreducible and not a solid Klein bottle, then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$  for some  $k \geq 0$ , and any such group is the twist group of some compact  $\mathbb{P}^2$ -irreducible 3-manifold*
- (c) *If  $M$  is irreducible, or more generally if no proper summand of  $M$  is a solid Klein bottle, then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^l$  for some  $k, l \geq 0$ , and any such group is the twist group of some compact irreducible 3-manifold*
- (d)  *$\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^l \times (\mathbb{Z}/4)^m$  for some  $k, l, m \geq 0$ , and any such group is the twist group of some compact 3-manifold.*

The sections of the paper are organized as follows. In section 1, we use an elementary covering space argument to show that  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  is not finitely generated when  $V$  is a handlebody of genus  $\geq 2$ . In section 2, we study the case when  $V$  is a product-with-handles (defined at the start of section 2). The general case is reduced to the case of products-with-handles in section 3, while the final section treats exclusively the case of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  finitely generated.

We work in the  $PL$  category without explicit mention. For  $A \subseteq X$ , the notation  $\mathcal{M}(X \text{ rel } A)$  means the group of path components of  $\{h \in \text{Homeo}(X) \mid h|_A = 1_A\}$ .

The letters  $M$  and  $V$  will always denote connected 3-manifolds, while the letter  $W$  will often denote a 3-manifold that is not necessarily connected.

A *disc* in a 3-manifold always means a 2-disc which is either properly imbedded or is imbedded in the boundary.

A *punctured* 3-manifold means a manifold from which the interior of one 3-ball imbedded in the interior of  $M$  has been removed. We say  $N$  is a *proper summand* of  $M$  if  $M = N \# N'$  with  $N, N' \neq S^3$ . The boundary connected sum of  $M$  and  $N$  is denoted by  $M \sqcup N$ ; the discs and orientations used to form the boundary connected sum will always be specified, or clear from context.

A *rotation about a 2-sphere* and a *rotation about a projective plane* are homeomorphisms defined similarly to twist homeomorphisms using a 2-sphere or a 2-sided projective plane imbedded in the interior of  $M$ , or sometimes imbedded as a boundary component of  $M$ . We refer the reader to [9] for facts about these homeomorphisms; here we note only that the square of a rotation about a 2-sphere or projective plane is always isotopic to the identity map, by an isotopy fixed outside a product neighborhood of the 2-sphere or projective plane.

I wish to thank the referee for correcting several mistakes in an earlier version of this paper.

## § 1. THE TWIST GROUP OF A HANDLEBODY

Throughout this section  $V$  will denote a handlebody of genus  $g \geq 2$ . All homology will have coefficients in the ring  $R$  with  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  when  $V$  is orientable and  $R = \mathbb{Z}/2$  when  $V$  is

nonorientable. It will cause no confusion to simplify notation by suppressing the distinction between a homeomorphism and its isotopy class, and between a simple closed curve and its homology class.

If  $C$  is a loop in  $\partial M$ , then  $t_C: \partial M \rightarrow \partial M$  denotes a Dehn twist about  $C$ . Recall that for  $\alpha \in H_1(\partial M)$ ,  $(t_C)_*(\alpha) = \alpha \pm (\alpha \cdot C)C$  where  $\alpha \cdot C \in \mathbb{R}$  is the intersection number and the sign depends on the choices of orientation and conventions. In particular, if  $\alpha$  and  $C$  bound discs in  $M$ , then  $\alpha \cdot C = 0$  so  $(t_C)_*(\alpha) = \alpha$ .

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $V$  be a handlebody of genus  $g \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  is not finitely generated.*

*Proof.* Let  $E$  be a nonseparating properly imbedded 2-disc in  $V$  and let  $\tilde{V}$  be the infinite cyclic covering whose fundamental group consists of all elements of  $\pi_1(V)$  that have intersection number zero with  $E$ . We may select nice generators for  $H_1(\partial \tilde{V})$ , as illustrated in Fig. 1, so that if  $s: \tilde{V} \rightarrow \tilde{V}$  generates the group of covering transformations, then:

1.  $H_1(\tilde{V})$  is a free  $R$ -module on  $\{s^k a_i | 1 \leq i \leq g-1, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$
2.  $H_1(\partial \tilde{V})$  is a free  $R$ -module on  $\{c, s^k a_i, s^k b_i | 1 \leq i \leq g-1, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$
3. kernel  $(H_1(\partial \tilde{V}) \rightarrow H_1(\tilde{V}))$  is a free  $R$ -module on  $\{c, s^k b_i | 1 \leq i \leq g-1, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

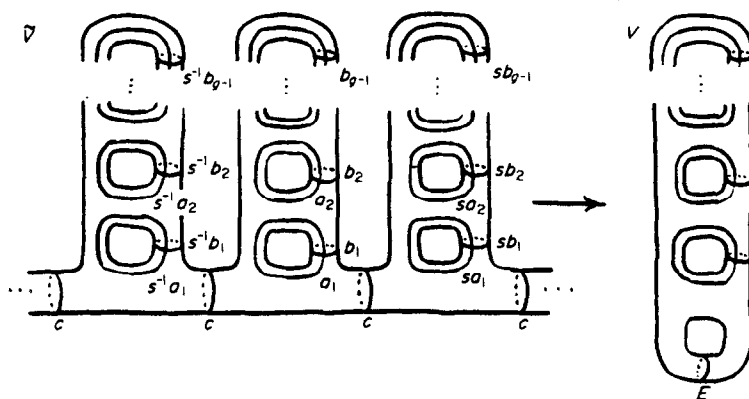


Fig. 1.

For  $\langle t \rangle \in \mathcal{T}(V)$ , let  $\tilde{t}: \tilde{V} \rightarrow \tilde{V}$  denote the lift such that  $\tilde{t}_*$  is the identity on  $H_1(\tilde{V})$ . Note that  $t_1 t_2 = t_1 \tilde{t}_2$ , and that for a twist  $t_D$  about  $D \subseteq V$ ,  $\tilde{t}_D$  is the lift of  $t_D$  that consists of twists about each of the countably many discs that form the preimage of  $D$ . Since  $\tilde{t}_*$  is the identity, we have

$$(\tilde{t}|_{\partial \tilde{V}})_*(a_1) = a_1 + nc + \sum_{k=-N}^N \sum_{i=1}^{g-1} n_{ik} s^k b_i \quad (*)$$

for some  $n, n_{ik} \in \mathbb{Z}$  and some nonnegative integer  $N$ . We define the *length*  $L(t)$  to be the smallest  $N$  for which  $(*)$  holds. That is,  $N$  is zero if all  $n_{ik} = 0$  and otherwise is the largest value of  $|k|$  for which some  $n_{ik}$  is nonzero. If  $D$  is any disc in  $V$ , then each of the twists about the preimage discs over  $D$  must fix  $c$  and the  $s^k b_i$  in  $H_1(\partial \tilde{V})$ , since these elements bound in  $\tilde{V}$ . It follows that  $L(t_1 t_2) \leq \max\{L(t_1), L(t_2)\}$ . Consequently, if  $L(t)$  were bounded for all  $t$  in some generating set of  $\mathcal{T}(V)$ —in particular, if  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  were finitely generated—then  $\{L(t) | t \in \mathcal{T}(V)\}$  would be bounded. But let  $E_N$  be the disc shown in Fig. 2. It wraps  $N$  times around the handle whose cocore is  $E$ . One checks that  $(\tilde{t}_{E_N})_*(a_1) = a_1 \pm (s^N - 2 + s^{-N})b_1$ , hence  $L(t_{E_N}) = N$  and the lengths are unbounded. This completes the proof of theorem 1.1.  $\square$

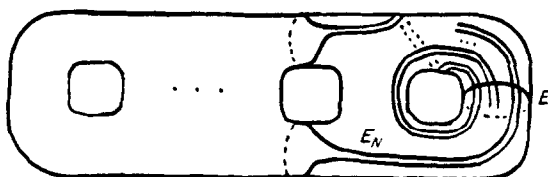


Fig. 2.

We can strengthen theorem 1.1 a bit:

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Let  $V$  be a handlebody of genus  $g \geq 2$ . Then there is a surjection from  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  onto a free abelian group of infinite rank.*

*Proof:* If  $V$  is nonorientable, there is a nonseparating disc  $E$  in  $V$  so that the infinite cyclic cover formed using  $V$  is orientable. Therefore we may always use coefficients  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  in the proof of theorem 1.1. With notation as in that proof, we may view  $(\tilde{t}|_{\partial V})_*$  as a matrix with respect to the  $\mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}]$ -module generating set  $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{g-1}, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{g-1}, c\}$  of  $H_1(\partial \tilde{V})$ . Since  $(\tilde{t}|_{\partial \tilde{V}})_*$  must preserve the kernel of  $H_1(\partial \tilde{V}) \rightarrow H_1(\tilde{V})$ , this matrix will have the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{g-1} & M & \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{smallmatrix} \\ \hline 0 & I_{g-1} & \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{smallmatrix} \\ \hline 0 \dots 0 & n_1 \dots n_{g-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $I_{g-1}$  is the identity matrix and  $M$  is a  $(g-1) \times (g-1)$  matrix with entries in  $\mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}]$ . Observing the effect of multiplying two matrices of this form, we see that the function sending  $t_D$  to  $M$  is a homomorphism from  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  to the additive group  $M(g-1, \mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}])$  of  $(g-1) \times (g-1)$  matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}]$ .

There is a constraint which the entries of  $M$  must satisfy. Let  $\varepsilon = +1$  or  $-1$  according as  $V$  is orientable or not. For  $m \in \mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}]$ , let  $m^-$  denote its image under the ring involution defined by sending  $s$  to  $\varepsilon s^{-1}$ . We will show that the entries of  $M$  satisfy  $m_{ji} = m_{ij}^-$ .

Suppose  $\tilde{D}$  is some lift of  $D$  to  $\tilde{V}$ . Write

$$\partial \tilde{D} = nc + \sum_k n_{1,k} s^k b_1 + \dots + \sum_k n_{g-1,k} s^k b_{g-1} \in H_1(\partial \tilde{V}).$$

In this and the ensuing formulas, the summations range over all values of the indicated letters, and all but finitely many terms are zero. We see that  $a_j \cdot s^l \partial \tilde{D} = \varepsilon^l n_{j, -l}$ . Since  $\tilde{t}_D$  consists of simultaneous twists about the  $s^l \tilde{D}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{t}_D|_{\partial \tilde{V}})_*(a_j) &= a_j + \sum_l (a_j \cdot s^l \partial \tilde{D}) s^l \partial \tilde{D} \\ &= a_j + \sum_l \varepsilon^l n_{j, -l} s^l \partial \tilde{D} \\ &= a_j + \sum_l \varepsilon^l n_{j, l} s^l \partial \tilde{D} \\ &= a_j + \sum_l \varepsilon^l n_{j, l} nc + \sum_{k, l} \varepsilon^l n_{j, l} n_{1, k} s^{k-l} b_1 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

showing that  $m_{ij} = \sum_{k, l} \varepsilon^l n_{j, l} n_{i, k} s^{k-l}$ . The coefficient of  $s^q$  in  $m_{ij}$  is  $\sum_l \varepsilon^l n_{j, l} n_{i, l+q}$ . But the coefficient of  $s^{-q}$  in  $m_{ji}$  is  $\sum_l \varepsilon^l n_{i, l} n_{j, l-q} = \sum_l \varepsilon^{l+q} n_{i, l+q} n_{j, l}$ , hence  $m_{ji} = m_{ij}^-$ .

We have shown that the image of the homomorphism from  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  to  $M(g-1, \mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}])$  lies in

$$A = \{M \in M(g-1, \mathbb{Z}[s, s^{-1}]) \mid m_{ji} = m_{ij}^- \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq j \leq g-1\}.$$

It is not hard to observe that  $A$  is a countably generated free abelian group. Using various discs in  $V$ , one checks that all of these generators are in the image. This proves theorem 1.2.  $\square$

## §2. THE TWIST GROUP OF A PRODUCT-WITH-HANDLES

A compact connected 3-manifold  $V$  is a *product-with-handles* (PWH) if it can be constructed as follows. Take a compact 2-manifold  $G$ , no component of which is a 2-sphere, form  $G \times I$ , and attach 1-handles (at least one) to  $G \times \{1\}$ . If  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n$  are the boundaryless connected components of  $G$ , then  $V$  has  $n$  incompressible boundary components  $F_1 \times \{0\}, F_2 \times \{0\}, \dots, F_n \times \{0\}$ , and one compressible boundary component. We usually denote  $F_i \times \{0\}$  by  $F_i$  and the compressible boundary component by  $F$ . Dually, we may regard  $V$  as obtained from  $F \times I$  by adding 2- and 3-handles which touch  $F \times \{0\}$ , consequently  $\pi_1(F) \rightarrow \pi_1(V)$  is surjective. Observe that  $V$  is irreducible, but is  $\mathbf{P}^2$ -irreducible if and only if no component of  $G$  is a projective plane. Also,  $\pi_1(V) \cong S_1 * S_2 * \dots * S_n * S$  where  $S_i \cong \pi_1(F_i)$  and  $S$  is a free group of rank  $m$ . The number  $m$  is called the *genus* of  $V$ . This term is justified by the observation that  $V$  is homeomorphic to a boundary connected sum of a genus  $m$  handlebody with  $F_1 \times I, \dots, F_n \times I$ , where the  $F_i \times I$  are all attached to the handlebody along disjoint discs in its boundary. From this observation, the next lemma follows easily.

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $V$  and  $V'$  be products-with-handles. Then  $V$  is homeomorphic to  $V'$  if and only if  $\pi_1(V) \cong \pi_1(V')$  and either  $V$  and  $V'$  are both orientable or  $V$  and  $V'$  are both nonorientable.*

A PWH  $V$  is of type  $(m, n, p)$  if it has genus  $m$  and has  $n$  incompressible boundary components of which  $p$  are projective planes. We say  $V$  is *small* if  $(m, n, p) \in \{(1, 0, 0), (0, 2, 0), (0, 2, 1), (0, 2, 2), (1, 1, 1), (0, 3, 3)\}$ , otherwise  $V$  is *large*. Explicitly,  $V$  is type  $(1, 0, 0)$  if  $V$  is a solid torus or a solid Klein bottle, of type  $(0, 2, 0)$ ,  $(0, 2, 1)$ , or  $(0, 2, 2)$  if  $V = F_1 \times I \sqcup F_2 \times I$ , of type  $(1, 1, 1)$  when  $V = S^1 \times D^2 \sqcup \mathbf{P}^2 \times I$ , and of type  $(0, 3, 3)$  when  $V$  is the unique PWH of genus 0 having three incompressible boundary components which are all projective planes.

The special significance of projective plane boundary components stems from the following observation.

**Remark 2.2.** If  $D$  is a 2-disc with  $D \subseteq \mathbf{P}^2 \times \{0\} \subseteq \mathbf{P}^2 \times I$ , then a twist homeomorphism about  $D$  is isotopic (rel  $D \cup \mathbf{P}^2 \times \{1\}$ ) to a rotation supported in a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{P}^2 \times \{1\}$ , and hence is isotopic (rel  $D$ ) to the identity. This may be seen geometrically by making use of an  $S^1$ -action on  $\mathbf{P}^2$  that rotates  $D$  about its center. Consequently, if a properly-imbedded 2-disc  $D \subseteq V$  separates  $V$  and one component of  $V$  split along  $D$  is  $\mathbf{P}^2 \times I$ , then a twist about  $D$  is isotopic to the identity on  $V$ , and is isotopic (rel  $\partial V - F$ ) to a rotation about a projective plane boundary component of  $V$ .

**THEOREM 2.3.** *If  $V$  is a small product-with-handles, then  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  is finitely generated. Explicitly,*

- (a) *If  $V$  is a solid torus then  $\mathcal{T}(V) \cong \mathbf{Z}$*
- (b) *If  $V$  is a solid Klein bottle then  $\mathcal{T}(V) \cong \mathbf{Z}/2$*
- (c) *If  $V$  is of type  $(0, 2, 0)$  then  $\mathcal{T}(V) \cong \mathbf{Z}$*
- (d) *If  $V$  is of type  $(0, 2, 1)$  or  $(0, 2, 2)$  then  $\mathcal{T}(V) \cong \{1\}$*
- (e) *If  $V$  is of type  $(0, 3, 3)$  then  $\mathcal{T}(V) \cong \{1\}$*
- (f) *If  $V$  is of type  $(1, 1, 1)$  then  $\mathcal{T}(V) \cong \mathbf{Z}$*

We will break the proof of theorem 2.3 into several lemmas.

**LEMMA 2.4.** *If  $V$  is of type  $(0, 2, p)$ , so that  $V$  is a boundary connected sum of  $F_1 \times I$  with  $F_2 \times I$  along a disc  $\Delta$ , then any essential disc in  $V$  is ambient isotopic to  $\Delta$ .*

*Proof:* Given  $D$ , put  $D$  transverse to  $\Delta$ , eliminate simple closed curve intersections by isotopy using irreducibility of  $V$ , and eliminate arc intersections using boundary irreducibility of  $F_i \times I$ . Once  $D$  is moved to be disjoint from  $\Delta$ , it must be parallel to  $\Delta$  by boundary irreducibility of the  $F_i \times I$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 2.5. *If  $V$  is of type  $(0, 3, 3)$ , then any essential disc in  $V$  separates  $V$  into two components, one of which is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times I$ .*

*Proof:* This follows easily from theorem 2 of [4].  $\square$

LEMMA 2.6. *If  $V$  is of type  $(1, 1, 1)$ , then  $V$  contains exactly three isotopy classes of properly imbedded essential 2-discs. One is nonseparating, and the others each separate  $V$  into two components, one of which is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times I$ .*

*Proof.* We begin with a definition. Suppose  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are disjoint properly imbedded 2-discs in a 3-manifold  $M$ , and  $\alpha$  is an arc in  $\partial M$  intersecting  $E_1$  in one endpoint,  $E_2$  in the other endpoint, with  $\text{int}(\alpha)$  disjoint from  $E_1 \cup E_2$ . We call such an arc a *binding arc* for  $E_1 \cup E_2$ . If  $N$  is a small regular neighborhood of  $E_1 \cup \alpha \cup E_2$ , then the frontier of  $N$  in  $M$  consists of three 2-discs. One of these is parallel in  $N$  to  $E_1$ , another to  $E_2$ , and the third is denoted  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_2)$  and called the *trough sum* of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  along  $\alpha$ . Observe that the isotopy class of  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_2)$  depends only on the ambient isotopy class of  $E_1 \cup \alpha \cup E_2$ , that  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_2)$  is isotopic to  $E_2$  if  $E_1$  is parallel to a disc in  $\partial M$ , and that  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_2)$  is the same as  $E(E_2, \alpha, E_1)$ .

We regard  $V$  as constructed by taking a 3-ball  $B$  with three disjoint discs  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ , and  $D_3$  in  $\partial B$ , attaching an orientable 1-handle  $H$  along  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ , and attaching a  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times I$ , called  $P$ , along  $D_3$ . Let  $H'$  be the closure of  $V - H$  and let  $P'$  be the closure of  $V - P$ . Let  $c \subseteq \partial H' - \text{int}(D_1 \cup D_2)$  be a binding arc for  $D_1 \cup D_2$  that runs over  $P$  so that  $D_1 \cup c \cup D_2$  is not isotopic into  $P'$ . Define  $E_1 = D_1$ ,  $E_2 = E(D_1, c, D_2)$ , and  $E_3 = D_3$ . These are shown in Fig. 3. We will prove that any essential disc  $\Delta$  in  $V$  is isotopic to one of  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ , or  $E_3$ . This will prove the lemma, since  $E_1$  is nonseparating,  $E_2$  separates  $V$  into a  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times I$  and a solid Klein bottle, and  $E_3$  separates  $V$  into a  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times I$  and a solid torus.

Given  $\Delta$ , we may assume  $\Delta$  intersects  $D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$  transversely in arcs. An arc of intersection that is outermost on  $D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$  gives a decomposition of  $\Delta$  as  $E(\Delta_1, \alpha, \Delta_2)$  where  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  have fewer total arcs of intersection with  $D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$  than  $\Delta$  had (i.e. if the arc cuts off a disc  $D \subseteq D_i$  with interior disjoint from  $\Delta$ , then the frontier of a regular neighborhood of  $\Delta \cup D$  consists of  $\Delta$ ,  $\Delta_1$ , and  $\Delta_2$ ). Iterating, we obtain a way of constructing  $\Delta$  as an iterated trough sum, starting from discs which are disjoint from  $D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$  and hence either inessential or isotopic to  $E_1$  or  $E_3$ . Therefore, it suffices to show that a trough sum of two discs, each of which is isotopic to a disc in  $\mathcal{E} = \{E_1, E_2, E_3, \text{inessential 2-disc}\}$ , is isotopic to a disc in  $\mathcal{E}$ .

Clearly  $E(\text{inessential 2-disc}, \alpha, \text{inessential 2-disc})$  is always inessential. If  $E'_2$  and  $E''_2$  are isotopic to  $E_2$ , then  $E(E'_2, \alpha, E''_2)$  is always inessential, and similarly for  $E(E'_3, \alpha, E''_3)$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ ,  $E(\text{inessential 2-disc}, \alpha, E_i)$  is isotopic to  $E_i$ . Suppose now that  $E'_1$  and  $E''_1$  are

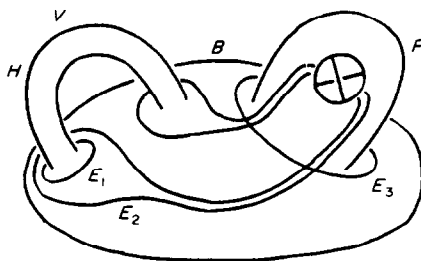


Fig. 3.

isotopic to  $E_1$ , then  $E(E'_1, \alpha', E''_1)$  is isotopic to  $E(D_1, \alpha, D_2)$  for some  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha$  runs over  $H$ , then  $E(D_1, \alpha, D_2)$  is inessential. If  $\alpha$  lies in  $\partial H' - \text{int}(D_1 \cup D_2)$ , then either it is isotopic in  $\partial H' - \text{int}(D_1 \cup D_2)$  to an arc missing  $P$ , in which case  $E(D_1, \alpha, D_2)$  is isotopic to  $E_3$ , or it is isotopic to the arc we called  $c$ , in which case  $E(D_1, \alpha, D_2)$  is isotopic to  $E_2$ . Next, we consider  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_2)$ . The boundary of  $E_2$  separates the compressible boundary component of  $V$  into a punctured Klein bottle and a Möbius band, with  $\partial E_1$  an orientation-preserving essential loop in the Klein bottle. There are only two isotopy classes (keeping endpoints in  $\partial E_1 \cup \partial E_2$ ) of binding arcs  $\alpha$ , and for each of these,  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_2)$  is isotopic to  $E_1$ . Similarly,  $E(E_1, \alpha, E_3)$  is isotopic to  $E_1$ . Finally,  $\partial E_2$  and  $\partial E_3$  are not isotopic to disjoint loops (this can easily be proved by examining their lifts to certain covering spaces of  $\partial V$ ) so the trough sum of  $E_2$  and  $E_3$  cannot occur. This completes the proof of lemma 2.6.  $\square$

We can now deduce theorem 2.3 without difficulty. Cases (a) and (b) are easy since any essential disc in a solid torus or solid Klein bottle is isotopic to a meridional disc. Cases (c) and (d) follow from remark 2.2 and lemma 2.4—when there are no projective plane boundary components, the mapping class of a twist about the essential disc has infinite order when restricted to  $\partial V$  and hence has infinite order in  $\mathcal{T}(V)$ . Case (e) follows from lemma 2.5 and remark 2.2, and case (f) from lemma 2.6 and remark 2.2. This completes the proof of theorem 2.3.  $\square$

**THEOREM 2.7.** *If  $V$  is a large product-with-handles, then  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  is not finitely generated.*

*Proof:* Let  $V$  be a large PWH of type  $(m, n, p)$ , with incompressible boundary components  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n$ . The proof of theorem 2.7 is very similar to the proof of theorem 1.1, although the covering space  $\tilde{V}$  must be selected with care. We will describe the covering space  $\tilde{V}$  and the disc  $E_N$  for each of the cases, and omit the remaining minor modifications to the argument.

*Case I.*  $m \geq 2$

Take  $E$  to be the cocore of one of the non-separating 1-handles and  $\tilde{V}$  to be the infinite cyclic cover constructed from  $E$  as in theorem 1.1. The disc  $E_N$  is also quite similar.

*Case II.*  $m = 1$  and  $n = 1$  (hence  $F_1 \neq \mathbf{P}^2$  since  $V$  is large)

Choose a simple closed curve  $C$  in  $F_1 \times \{1\} \cap \partial V$  such that  $E = C \times I \subseteq F_1 \times I$  is a properly-imbedded nonseparating annulus in  $V$ . Form the infinite cyclic cover using  $E$ , and for  $E_N$  use the disc shown in Fig. 4.

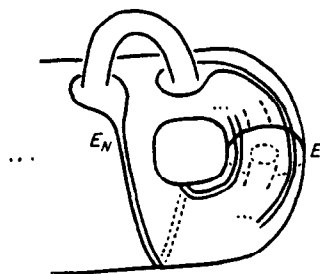


Fig. 4.

*Case III.*  $m = 1$  and  $n \geq 2$

Form a double covering  $V_1$  by opening up  $F_1 \times I$  and  $F_2 \times I$  into double covers. In  $V_1$  let  $E$  be one of the discs in the preimage of the cocore of the 1-handle of  $V$ . Form an infinite cyclic covering  $\tilde{V}$  of  $V_1$  using  $E$ . ( $\tilde{V}$  is irregular covering of  $V$ .) Let  $a_1$  and  $E_N$  be as shown in Fig. 5.

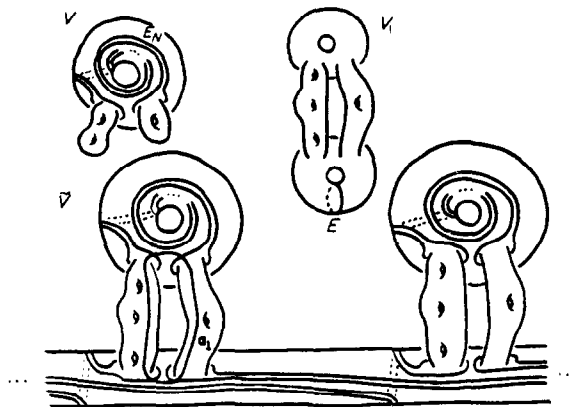


Fig. 5.

*Case IV.*  $m = 0$  (hence  $n \geq 3$ ) and some  $F_i$ , say  $F_3$ , is not a projective plane. Proceed as in Case III, using  $F_3 \times I$  in the role of the 1-handle and a nonseparating annulus in the role of  $E$ .

*Case V.*  $m = 0$  and all  $F_i$  are projective planes (hence  $n = p \geq 4$ ). Form  $V_1$  as in Case III by opening up  $F_1 \times I$  and  $F_2 \times I$ . The covering  $\tilde{V}$  is a regular covering of  $V_1$  having covering transformations  $\mathbb{Z}/2 * \mathbb{Z}/2$ , obtained by opening up one lift of  $F_3 \times I$  and one lift of  $F_4 \times I$  in  $V_1$ . The loop  $a_1$  and the discs  $E_N$  are similar to those in Case III.  $\square$

From lemmas 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6, it is clear that if  $V$  is small PWH, then  $\partial V$  is almost incompressible. On the other hand, the discs called  $E_N$  in the proof of theorem 2.7 show that if  $V$  is a large PWH, then  $\partial V$  is not almost incompressible. Therefore we may combine theorems 2.3 and 2.7 into a succinct statement:

**THEOREM 2.8.** *Let  $V$  be a product-with-handles. Then  $\mathcal{F}(V)$  is finitely generated if and only if  $\partial V$  is almost incompressible.*

Let  $\mathcal{F}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F)$  be the subgroup of  $\mathcal{M}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F)$  generated by twist homeomorphisms. We need the following technical results for later use.

**LEMMA 2.9.** *Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold and let  $G$  be a union of aspherical boundary components of  $M$ . Assume that  $\pi_1(M)$  is centerless and that for each component  $G_i$  of  $G$ , the kernel of  $\pi_1(G_i) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)$  contains no central element of  $\pi_1(G_i)$ . Let  $t$  be a product of twists and rotations about 2-spheres and projective planes, with  $t|_G = 1_G$  and  $t$  isotopic to  $1_M$ . Then  $t$  is isotopic to  $1_M \text{ (rel } G)$ .*

*Proof:* Choose basepoints  $x_0 \in \text{int}(M)$  and  $g_i \in G_i$ , and arcs  $\alpha_i$  running from  $x_0$  to  $g_i$ . We may assume  $x_0$  is fixed by  $t$ , and since  $\pi_1(M)$  is centerless, we may choose an isotopy  $H$  from  $t$  to  $1_M$  that is (rel  $x_0$ ). Since  $t$  is a product of twists and rotations, we have  $t(\alpha_i)$  homotopic to  $\alpha_i \text{ (rel } x_0 \cup g_i)$ . But  $t(\tilde{\alpha}_i) * \alpha_i$  is the image of the trace of  $H|_{G_i}$  at  $g_i$ . Since this trace is a central element of  $\pi_1(G_i)$ , our hypothesis shows it is trivial in  $\pi_1(G_i)$ . By results of Hamstrom [5], [6], [7], taking the trace gives an isomorphism  $\pi_1(\text{Homeo}(G_i)) \rightarrow \text{Center}(\pi_1(G_i))$  so we can deform  $H$  to an isotopy (rel  $G$ ).  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 2.10.** *Let  $V$  be a product-with-handles. Then*

(a) *There is an exact sequence*

$$1 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2)^k \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(V) \rightarrow 1$$

*in which the kernel is the central subgroup generated by rotations about projective plane boundary components.*

(b) *The restriction  $\mathcal{F}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(F)$  is injective.*



(c) *There is an exact sequence*

$$1 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2)^k \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(F)$$

in which the kernel is the central subgroup generated by rotations about projective plane boundary components.

*Proof.* (a) Since any disc with boundary in  $\partial V - F$  is inessential, any element of  $\mathcal{T}(V)$  is isotopic to a product of twists about discs with boundary in  $F$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(V)$  is surjective. Suppose  $\langle t \rangle \in \mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F)$  and  $H$  is an isotopy from  $t$  to  $1_V$ . By lemma 2.9, we may assume  $H$  is (rel  $G$ ) where  $G$  is the union of the components of  $\partial V - F$  that are not projective planes. Let  $R$  be the homeomorphism of  $V$  that is a rotation about each projective plane boundary component  $P$  for which  $H|_{P \times I}$  represents the nontrivial element of  $\pi_1(\text{Homeo}(P), 1_P) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$  [6]. Then  $Rt$  is isotopic to  $1_V \text{ (rel } \partial V - F)$  so  $\langle t \rangle = \langle R \rangle^{-1} = \langle R \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F)$ . Since rotations about the projective plane boundary components commute and have order 2 in  $\mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F)$ , the result follows.

(b) Let  $\langle h \rangle \in \mathcal{T}(V)$  with  $h|_F = 1_F$ . If  $D$  is any properly-imbedded disc in  $V$  with  $\partial D \subseteq F$ , then  $h|_{\partial D} = 1_{\partial D}$  implies, using irreducibility of  $V$ , that  $h$  is isotopic to a homeomorphism that fixes  $F \cup D$ . Thus we may assume  $h$  fixes a collection of discs that cuts  $V$  into 3-balls and  $F_i \times I$ 's. On the 3-balls we use the Alexander isotopy to deform  $h$  to the identity. On the  $F_i \times I$ 's,  $h$  is the identity on the boundary, so is isotopic, keeping fixed the end that meets the collection of discs, to the identity. For aspherical  $F_i$ , this follows from [18] and [8]. For  $F_i = \mathbb{P}^2$ , note that if  $A$  is the annulus that represents the generator of  $H_2(\mathbb{P}^2 \times I, \mathbb{P}^2 \times \partial I; \mathbb{Z}/2)$  and  $h$  is moved slightly, then by duality  $h(A) \cap A$  contains an arc that runs from  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \{0\}$  to  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \{1\}$ . This shows that if  $*$  is the basepoint of  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , then  $h$  is isotopic (rel  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \partial I$ ) to a map fixing  $* \times I$ . From here it is not difficult to deform  $h$  to the identity keeping one end fixed. Putting together these isotopies on the pieces of  $V$  gives an isotopy from  $h$  to  $1_V$ .

(c) is immediate from (a) and (b).  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 2.11.** *Let  $V$  be a punctured handlebody. Then*

(a) *there is an exact sequence*

$$1 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2)^k \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(V) \rightarrow 1$$

in which the kernel is generated by a rotation about the 2-sphere boundary component  $S$  and  $k = 0$  or  $1$

(b) *the restriction  $\mathcal{T}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(F)$  is injective*

(c) *there is an exact sequence*

$$1 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2)^k \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(F)$$

in which the kernel is generated by a rotation about the 2-sphere boundary component  $S$  and  $k = 0$  or  $1$ .

*Proof.* (a) Similar to proposition 2.10 (a);  $\pi_1(M)$  might not be centerless, but lemma 2.9 is not needed.

(b) Let  $t$  be a product of twists on  $V$  with  $t|_F$  isotopic to  $1_F$ . We may assume  $t|_S = 1_S$ . Choose basepoints  $s_0 \in S$  and  $x_0 \in F$  fixed by all the twists in  $t$ . Let  $W$  be the handlebody obtained by filling in  $S$  with a 3-ball  $E$  and let  $\hat{t}: W \rightarrow W$  be the homeomorphism obtained by extending  $t$  using the identity on  $E$ . By proposition 2.10 (b),  $\hat{t}$  is isotopic to  $1_W$ . If  $W$  is not a solid torus or solid Klein bottle, then  $\pi_1(F)$  is centerless so we may assume the isotopy from  $\hat{t}$  to  $1_W$  is (rel  $x_0$ ). If  $W$  is a solid torus or solid Klein bottle, then for each central element of  $\pi_1(F, x_0)$  there is a circular isotopy of  $W$  with trace at  $x_0$  equal to this element. Therefore, in this case we may still assume  $\hat{t}$  is isotopic to  $1_W \text{ (rel } x_0)$ . For this isotopy, the trace at  $s_0$  is also trivial. This allows us to find an isotopy from  $\hat{t}$  to  $1_W$  that leaves  $E$  invariant, and therefore restricts on  $V$  to an isotopy from  $t$  to  $1_V$ .

(c) is immediate from (a) and (b).  $\square$

LEMMA 2.12. Let  $K^*$  be a punctured solid Klein bottle with  $\partial K^* = K \cup S$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}(K^* \text{ rel } S) \cong \mathbb{Z}/4$ . It is generated by a twist about a meridinal disc  $D$ , and  $\langle t_D^2 \rangle = \langle r_S \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{T}(K^* \text{ rel } S)$ .

*Proof.* Figure 6 illustrates an isotopy from  $t_D^2$  to  $r_S$  (rel  $S$ ). In Fig. 6(a),  $t_D^2$  is represented by twists about two meridinal discs  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . In Fig. 6(b),  $D_2$  has been isotoped around  $K^*$ , returning on the other side of  $D_1$  but reversed with respect to a local orientation near  $D_1$ . In Fig. 6(c), the twist about this disc has been isotoped to the product of  $r_S$  and a twist that is isotopic to the inverse of  $t_{D_1}$ . From proposition 2.11(a), the kernel of  $\mathcal{T}(K^* \text{ rel } S) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(K^*) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$  is generated by  $\langle r_S \rangle$ , so it remains only to show  $\langle r_S \rangle \neq \langle 1_{K^*} \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{T}(K^* \text{ rel } S)$ . By an argument similar to that of lemma 2.9, if  $r_S$  is isotopic to  $1_{K^*}(\text{rel } S)$ , then it is also isotopic to  $1_{K^*}(\text{rel } \partial K^*)$ . But by section IV.4.3 of [9],  $r_S$  is not even homotopic to  $1_{K^*}(\text{rel } \partial K^*)$ .  $\square$

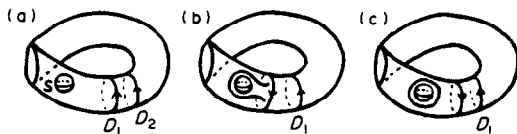


Fig. 6.

### §3. TWIST GROUPS OF 3-MANIFOLDS

#### 3.1. The rotation subgroup

LEMMA 3.1.1. Let  $D$  be a disc in  $M$  and let  $F$  be a closed incompressible surface in the interior of  $M$ . Then there is a disc  $D'$  in  $M$ , disjoint from  $F$  with  $\langle t_D \rangle = \langle r \rangle \langle t_{D'} \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{M}(M)$ , where  $r$  is a product of rotations about 2-spheres disjoint from  $D'$  and from  $F$ .

*Proof.* We may assume  $D$  intersects  $F$  transversely. Since  $F$  is incompressible, either  $D \cap F$  is empty or there is a circle  $C \subseteq D \cap F$  bounding a disc  $E$  in  $F$  with  $\text{int}(E)$  disjoint from  $D$ . We can use  $E$  to find a 2-sphere  $\Sigma$  and a disc  $D_1$  so that  $\langle t_D \rangle = \langle r_\Sigma \rangle \langle t_{D_1} \rangle$  and  $\Sigma \cup D_1$  intersects  $F$  in fewer circles than  $D$  does. Explicitly, let  $N$  be a small regular neighborhood of  $D \cup E$ , then the frontier of  $N$  in  $M$  consists of  $\Sigma$ ,  $D_1$ , and a disc parallel to  $D$ . A similar process can be used to write  $\langle r_\Sigma \rangle = \langle r_{\Sigma'} \rangle \langle r_{\Sigma''} \rangle$  where  $\Sigma' \cup \Sigma''$  has fewer circles of intersection with  $F$  than  $\Sigma$  has. Repeating, we arrive at a disc  $D'$ , disjoint from  $F$ , and 2-spheres  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2, \dots, \Sigma_m$ , disjoint from  $F$  and  $D'$ , so that  $\langle t_D \rangle = \langle r_{\Sigma_1} \rangle \langle r_{\Sigma_2} \rangle \dots \langle r_{\Sigma_m} \rangle \langle t_{D'} \rangle$ .  $\square$

A similar argument shows

LEMMA 3.1.2. Let  $r_\Sigma$  be a rotation about the 2-sphere  $\Sigma \subseteq M$  and let  $F$  be a closed incompressible surface in the interior of  $M$ . Then there is a product  $r$  of rotations about 2-spheres disjoint from  $F$  so that  $\langle r_\Sigma \rangle = \langle r \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{M}(M)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{R}(M)$  be the subgroup of  $\mathcal{M}(M)$  generated by rotations about imbedded 2-spheres in  $M$ .

PROPOSITION 3.1.3. Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold. Then

- (a)  $\mathcal{R}(M)$  is a normal subgroup of  $\mathcal{M}(M)$
- (b)  $\mathcal{R}(M) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^k$  for some nonnegative integer  $k$
- (c) If  $\partial M \neq \emptyset$  then  $\mathcal{R}(M)$  is a central subgroup of  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ .

*Proof.* (a) If  $\langle h \rangle \in \mathcal{M}(M)$  and  $r_S$  is a rotation about the imbedded 2-sphere  $S$ , then  $\langle h \rangle \langle r_S \rangle \langle h^{-1} \rangle = \langle r_{h(S)} \rangle$

(b) Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a union of finitely-many disjoint imbedded 2-spheres such that for each component  $W$  of  $M$  split along  $\mathcal{S}$ , the manifold  $\tilde{W}$  obtained by filling in the 2-sphere

boundary components of  $W$  with 3-balls is irreducible. This can be achieved by taking 2-spheres that factor  $M$  into prime summands and adding a 2-sphere fiber from each prime summand that is a 2-sphere bundle over  $S^1$ . Now if  $S$  is any 2-sphere in  $M$  that is disjoint from  $\mathcal{S}$ , then there is a submanifold  $M_0 \subseteq M$  which is a 3-ball with some open 3-balls removed such that  $\partial M_0 \subseteq \mathcal{S} \cup S$ . Therefore  $r_S$  is isotopic to some product of rotations about spheres in  $\mathcal{S}$ . Each rotation about a sphere in  $\mathcal{S}$  has order two in  $\mathcal{M}(M)$ , and they commute since the spheres in  $\mathcal{S}$  are disjoint. But by lemma 3.1.2, any rotation is isotopic to a product of rotations about 2-spheres disjoint from  $\mathcal{S}$ , so (b) follows.

(c) Let  $\Sigma$  be an imbedded 2-sphere and choose an imbedded arc  $\alpha$  running from  $\Sigma$  to  $\partial M$  and intersecting them only in its endpoints. Let  $N$  be a regular neighborhood of  $\Sigma \cup \alpha$ , then the frontier of  $N$  in  $M$  consists of a disc  $D$  and a 2-sphere parallel to  $\Sigma$ . A twist about  $D$  is isotopic to a rotation about  $\Sigma$ , so  $\langle r_\Sigma \rangle = \langle t_D \rangle \in \mathcal{T}(M)$ . Thus  $\mathcal{R}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{T}(M)$ . Suppose  $\langle t_E \rangle \in \mathcal{T}(M)$  and  $r_\Sigma$  is any rotation. Applying lemma 3.1.1 with  $F = \Sigma$  gives a disc  $D'$  disjoint from  $\Sigma$  and a product  $r$  of rotations about 2-spheres disjoint from  $\Sigma$  so that  $\langle t_D \rangle = \langle r \rangle \langle t_{D'} \rangle$ , which obviously commutes with  $\langle r_\Sigma \rangle$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{R}(M)$  is central in  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ .  $\square$

### 3.2. Incompressible neighborhoods

**PROPOSITION 3.2.1.** *Let  $F$  be a compressible boundary component of an irreducible 3-manifold  $M$ . Then there is a connected codimension zero submanifold  $V$  of  $M$  such that*

- (1)  $V \cap \partial M = F$
- (2)  $\partial V - F$  is contained in the interior of  $M$  and is incompressible in  $M$
- (3)  $V$  is a product-with-handles

*Proof.* This differs from the existence parts of theorem 2.1 of [2] and theorem 1.1.1 of [17] only in that we are allowing 2-sided projective planes, but the arguments can be extended to this case with only minor changes.  $\square$

Now let  $M$  be any compact 3-manifold, factored into prime summands. Each compressible boundary component  $F$  lies in some irreducible summand  $M_1$  of  $M$ . If  $M_1$  is not a handlebody, let  $V_F$  be a product-with-handles in  $M_1$  satisfying the conclusion of proposition 3.2.1. Since  $M_1$  is not a handlebody,  $\partial V_F - F$  is nonempty and therefore  $V_F$  may be chosen to be disjoint from the 3-balls removed from  $M_1$  to form  $M$ . That is, we may assume  $V_F$  lies in  $M$ . If  $M_1$  is a handlebody, let  $V_F = M_1 = M$  if  $M = M_1$ , otherwise let  $V_F$  be a neighborhood of  $F$  in  $M$  which is a punctured handlebody. Finally, if  $F$  is incompressible, let  $V_F$  be a collar neighborhood of  $F$  in  $M$ . We may select the  $V_F$ 's sequentially to insure they are disjoint. Let  $W$  be the union of the  $V_F$ 's for all boundary components of  $M$ . A neighborhood  $W$  of  $\partial M$  constructed in this way is called an *incompressible neighborhood* of  $\partial M$ . Note that  $\partial W - \partial M$  is incompressible in  $M$ , and hence a loop in  $\partial M$  bounds a disc in  $M$  if and only if it bounds a disc in  $W$ . Consequently,  $\partial M$  is almost incompressible in  $M$  if and only if  $\partial W$  is almost incompressible in  $W$ .

### 3.3. The main results

Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold and let  $W$  be an incompressible neighborhood of  $\partial M$ . Then extending homeomorphisms using the identity on  $M - W$  induces a homomorphism  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)$ . Let  $\Phi$  be the composite  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)/\mathcal{R}(M)$ .

**THEOREM 3.3.1.**  $\Phi: \mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)/\mathcal{R}(M)$  is surjective. The kernel is contained in the subgroup generated by rotations about projective planes in the boundary of product-with-handles components of  $W$  and by rotations about 2-spheres in the boundary of punctured handlebody components of  $W$ , hence is a finite group isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^k$  for some  $k$ .

*Proof.* Surjectivity follows by taking  $F = \partial W - \partial M$  in lemma 3.1.1. If  $\langle t \rangle$  is in the kernel, then  $t|_{\partial M}$  is isotopic to the identity. Applying propositions 2.10(c) and 2.11(c) gives the result.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.3.2.**  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is finitely generated if and only if  $\partial M$  is almost incompressible.

*Proof.* We have observed that  $\partial M$  is almost incompressible if and only if  $\partial W$  is almost incompressible in  $W$ . By theorem 2.8 and using propositions 2.10 and 2.11, this is the case if and only if  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M)$  is finitely-generated. The corollary now follows from theorem 3.3.1 and proposition 3.1.3(b).  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.3.3.** Suppose that  $M$  contains no 2-sided projective planes, and let  $W$  be an incompressible neighborhood of  $\partial M$ . Then there is an exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow \mathcal{R}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(W) \rightarrow 1.$$

In particular, if  $M$  is  $\mathbf{P}^2$ -irreducible then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathcal{T}(W)$ .

*Proof.* By theorem 3.3.1 the kernel of  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)/\mathcal{R}(M)$  is in the rotation subgroup, so there is an induced surjection  $\mathcal{T}(W) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)/\mathcal{R}(M)$ . But by propositions 2.10(c) and 2.11(c), the composite  $\mathcal{T}(W) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)/\mathcal{R}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(\partial M)$  is injective, hence the induced surjection is an isomorphism.  $\square$

We note that in corollary 3.3.3 it is sufficient to assume only that  $W$  has no projective plane boundary components, except possibly in components of  $W$  that are collar neighborhoods of projective plane boundary components of  $M$ . Also, if in corollary 3.3.3  $M$  has no proper summands that are handlebodies, then propositions 2.10(a) and 2.11(a) show that  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(W)$  is an isomorphism. Then,  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)$  induces a splitting of the exact sequence, giving  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathcal{R}(M) \times \mathcal{T}(W)$ .

**COROLLARY 3.3.4.** Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold. Then  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is the normal closure of finitely many elements of  $\mathcal{M}(M)$ .

*Proof.* When  $V$  is a punctured handlebody or a product-with-handles with compressible boundary component  $F$ , it is not hard to see that under the action of  $\mathcal{M}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - F)$ , there are only finitely many isotopy classes of discs in  $V$ . Since  $f t_D f^{-1} = t_{f(D)}$ , this implies that  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M)$  is the normal closure in  $\mathcal{M}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M)$  of finitely many twists. Theorem 3.3.1 shows that the image of  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M)$  together with  $\mathcal{R}(M)$  generate  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ . Because all elements of  $\mathcal{M}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M)$  extend to  $M$ , the result follows.  $\square$

#### §4. FINITELY GENERATED TWIST GROUPS

**LEMMA 4.1.** Let  $W$  be an incompressible neighborhood of  $\partial M$  and suppose  $\mathcal{T}(W)$  is finitely generated. Then  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \cong \mathbf{Z}^k \times (\mathbf{Z}/2)^l \times (\mathbf{Z}/4)^m$  for some  $k, l, m \geq 0$ , where  $m$  is the number of components of  $W$  that are punctured solid Klein bottles,  $l = 0$  unless  $W$  is a solid Klein bottle or has projective plane boundary components.

*Proof.* The components of  $W$  that are collar neighborhoods of boundary components of  $M$  contribute nothing to  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M)$ . The components that are small products-with-handles contribute direct factors of the form  $\mathbf{Z}^{k_1} \times (\mathbf{Z}/2)^{l_1}$ , according to theorem 2.3 and proposition 2.10(a). If  $V$  is a punctured handlebody component of  $W$ , then it must be a punctured solid Klein bottle or punctured solid torus. In the former case, lemma 2.12 shows that  $V$  contributes a  $\mathbf{Z}/4$  factor; in the latter case,  $r_S$  is isotopic to  $1_V \text{ (rel } S)$  so proposition 2.11(a) and theorem 2.3 show  $\mathcal{T}(V \text{ rel } \partial V - S) \cong \mathbf{Z}$ . This establishes the assertion about  $m$ . The assertion about  $l$  follows using theorem 2.3 and proposition 2.10(a).  $\square$

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Let  $M$  be a compact connected 3-manifold with finitely generated twist group.*

- (a) *If  $M$  is a solid Klein bottle, then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$*
- (b) *If  $M$  is  $\mathbb{P}^2$ -irreducible and not a solid Klein bottle, then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$  for some  $k \geq 0$ , and any such group is the twist group of some compact  $\mathbb{P}^2$ -irreducible 3-manifold*
- (c) *If  $M$  is irreducible, or more generally if no proper summand of  $M$  is a solid Klein bottle, then  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^l$  for some  $k, l \geq 0$ , and any such group is the twist group of some compact irreducible 3-manifold*
- (d)  *$\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^l \times (\mathbb{Z}/4)^m$  for some  $k, l, m \geq 0$ , and any such group is the twist group of some compact 3-manifold.*

**PROOF.** (a) This is theorem 2.3(b).

(b) From corollary 3.3.3,  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathcal{T}(W)$ , and by theorem 2.3,  $\mathcal{T}(W) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$ . For realization, let  $F_i$  be closed connected aspherical 2-manifolds for  $0 \leq i \leq k$ , and form  $M$  from  $\cup_{i=0}^k F_i \times I$  by identifying a disc in  $F_i \times \{1\}$  with a disc in  $F_{i+1} \times \{0\}$  for  $0 \leq i \leq k-1$ . For this  $M$ ,  $W$  is homeomorphic to a disjoint union  $F_0 \times I \cup (F_0 \times I \sqcup F_1 \times I) \cup (F_1 \times I \sqcup F_2 \times I) \cup \dots \cup (F_{k-1} \times I \sqcup F_k \times I) \cup F_k \times I$ , so theorem 2.3 shows  $\mathcal{T}(W) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$ .

(c) and (d) Consider the homomorphism  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)$  discussed in section 3.3. Since  $\mathcal{H}(M)$  is central in  $\mathcal{T}(M)$ , there is a homomorphism  $\mathcal{H}(M) \times \mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)$ . By theorem 3.3.1, this homomorphism is surjective and has finite kernel. Therefore proposition 3.1.3(b) and lemma 4.1 show that  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  has the asserted form. It remains to realize these groups as twist groups for the appropriate kinds of 3-manifolds.

For (c), let  $F_{k+1}, F_{k+3}, \dots, F_{k+2l-1}$  be projective planes, let  $F_0, F_1, \dots, F_k, F_{k+2}, F_{k+4}, \dots, F_{k+2l}$  be closed connected aspherical 2-manifolds, and construct  $M$  as in (b) above. There is an incompressible neighborhood  $W$  of  $\partial M$  having components  $W_0, W_1, \dots, W_{k+2l+1}$  where  $W_0 \approx F_0 \times I$ ,  $W_{k+2l+1} \approx F_{k+2l} \times I$ , and  $W_i \approx F_{i-1} \times I \sqcup F_i \times I$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k+2l$ . Thus for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $W_i$  is of type  $(0, 2, 0)$  so  $\mathcal{T}(W_i \text{ rel } \partial W_i - \partial M) \cong \mathbb{Z}$  using theorem 2.3 and proposition 2.10(a), while for  $k+1 \leq i \leq k+2l$ ,  $W_i$  is of type  $(0, 2, 1)$  so  $\mathcal{T}(W_i \text{ rel } \partial W_i - \partial M) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{l_i}$  for  $l_i = 0$  or  $1$  (in fact, we will see that  $l_i = 1$ ) again by theorem 2.3 and proposition 2.10(a). Since  $M$  is irreducible, theorem 3.3.1 gives a surjection  $\mathcal{T}(W \text{ rel } \partial W - \partial M) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(M)$  with finite kernel. Since a rotation about the projective plane in  $W_{k+2j-1}$  is isotopic in  $M$  to a rotation about the projective plane in  $W_{k+2j}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq l$ , this shows  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{l_0}$  for some  $l_0 \leq l$ . On the other hand, the projective planes  $F_{k+1} \times \{\frac{1}{2}\}, F_{k+3} \times \{\frac{1}{2}\}, \dots, F_{k+2l-1} \times \{\frac{1}{2}\}$  form a projectively minimal Epstein system for  $M$  [9, section II.3]. By V.4.4 of [9], the rotations about these projective planes generate a subgroup isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^l$  in  $\pi_0(\text{Equivalences}(M \text{ rel } \partial M))$ , and hence generate a subgroup isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^l$  in  $\mathcal{H}(M \text{ rel } \partial M)$ . Lemma 2.9 now implies they still generate a subgroup isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^l$  in  $\mathcal{H}(M)$ , hence  $l_0 \geq l$  and therefore  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^l$ .

For (d), form the connected sum of the  $M$  from part (c) with  $m$  solid Klein bottles. A similar analysis and use of results from [9] proves that  $\mathcal{T}(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^l \times (\mathbb{Z}/4)^m$ .  $\square$

Theorem 4.2 has the following curious consequence.

**COROLLARY 4.3.** *Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold. Then  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is finitely generated if and only if it is abelian.*

*Proof.* Theorem 4.2 implies the only if direction. Conversely, if  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  were infinitely generated and abelian, then theorem 3.3.1 and proposition 2.10 or 2.11 would show that  $\mathcal{H}(\partial M)$  contains an infinitely generated abelian subgroup, which is impossible by [1]. Alternatively, if  $\mathcal{T}(M)$  is infinitely generated then  $W$  must have a component which is either a large product-with-handles or a possibly punctured handlebody of genus  $g \geq 2$ , and in either case one can easily find two twists which don't commute up to isotopy.  $\square$

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